

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-01 ISO-00 /004 R

66612

DRAFTED BY: NEA/IRN:BBMORTON:S

APPROVED BY: NEA/IRN:BBMORTON

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R 301431Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

CINCUSNAVEUR

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FOLLOWING REPEAT TEHRAN 4944 ACTION MANAMA INFO DOHA JIDDA KUWAIT
MUSCAT BAGHDAD AND SECSTATE 28 MAY 75

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEHRAN 4944

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, BA, IR

SUBJ: BAHRAIN'S PRIME MINISTER STRENGTHENS BILATERAL TIES WITH
IRAN, FORESEES GULF SECURITY ARRANGEMENT

1. PRIME MINISTER KHALIFA SALMAN AL KHALIFA VISITEJ TEHRAN
MAY 24-27. SHAH RECEIVED KHALIFA MAY 25. AFTER TALKS WITH
PRIME MINISTER HOVEYDA IT WAS AGREED THAT IRAN WOULD TRAIN
BAHRAINIS IN FIELDS OF INDUSTRY AND TRADE AND THAT CULTURAL TIES
WOULD ALSO BE STRENGTHENED. NO JOINT COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED.

2. IN PRESS INTERVIEWS PUBLISHED AFTER HIS DEPARTURE, AL KHALIFA
DENIED THAT US HAD BASE IN BAHRAIN AND CALLED FOR A GULF SECURITY
ARRANTEMET. HE SAID AMERICAN SHIPS, LIKE THOSE OF OTHER NATIONS,
ENJOYED PORT FACILITIES THERE AND PAID CALLS AS BEFITTED SHIPS OF
A FRIENDLY COUNTRY. AL KHALIFA THOUGHT THAT IMPORVED RELATIONS
AONG IRAN, IRAQ AND SAUDI ARABIA AUGURED WELL FOR AN AGREEMENT IN
PRINCIPLE TO KEEP THE GULF FREE OF OUTSIDE POWER INFLUENCE. SUCH

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AN UNDERSTANDING WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO A FORMAL PACT, HE TOLD
NEWSMEN. AS FOR PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS, AL KHALIFA SUGGESTED THAT A
MEETING OF GULF FOREIGN MINISTERS OR PREMIERS COULD PRECEDE A
MEETING OF HEAD OF STATE. NO TIMING WAS MENTIONED.

3. HASSAN IZADI, MFA OFFICIAL WHO HANDLES GULF AFFAIRS, COMMENTED THAT MAIN PURPOSE OF VISIT WAS SIMPLY TO REINFOCE FRIENDLY TIES ALREADY EXISTING BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. HE THOUGHT TRAINING OFFER MADE BY HOVEYDA WOULD ONLY INVOLVE SOME 20 BAHRAINIS COMING TO IRAN, LEARNING PETROLEUM TECHNOLOGY AS WELL AS OTHER SKILLS. IZADI WAS CAUTIOUS ABOUT A PERSIAN GULF SECURITY ARRANGEMENT. HE COMMENTED THAT SPECULATION CONCERNING A MEETING OF GULF OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS MATTER WAS PREMATURE.
HELMS

UNQUOTE. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COLLECTIVE SECURITY, FOREIGN RELATIONS, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS, PERSONNEL TRAINING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE125881
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA/IRN:BBMORTON:S
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 NA
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750190-0938
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197505104/baaaaafb.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <05 NOV 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971016
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PFOR, BA, IR, (KHALIFA, KHALIFA IBN SALMAN AL)
To: LONDON
CINCUSNAVEUR
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006